Board, Hamirpuron behalf of Central Sainik Kalyan Board, Government of India as its share of 50 per cent;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the reasons for its lying pending so far; and

(c) by when the remaining amount would be released to Himachal, Pradesh Sainik Kalyan Board, Hamirpur?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Directorate General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence have not received any letter dated 14th May 2003 from Government of Himachal Pradesh for early payment of Rs. 51.85 lakhs for payment of 50% Central Share.

However, it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 50.85 lakhs is due for payment to Himachal Pradesh Sainik Kalyan Board.

(b) The advance claim of Rs. 50.85 lakhs on the basis of sanctioned budget estimates received from the State Administration, was approved by the Kendriya Sainik Board and forwarded to Principal Controller of Defence Accounts, Chandigarh for payment in July, 2000. It was lost in transit/misplaced at PCDA Chandigarh.

The amount remained unpaid and undetected as State Government neither projected it as additional requirement of funds nor included it in its final bill.

(c) State Government have been asked to project the requirement afresh alongwith the claim for 2004-2005. The dues will be cleared as and when the claim is received and funds become available.

Allowing women to participate in ground combat missions

1486. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to assign jobs for women in ground combat missions, apart from allowing them to serveln engineering medical, signals etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Women officers are not being assigned jobs on ground combat . missions, as they are not eligible for induction in Infantry, Armoured Corps and Mechanised Infantry.

Manufacture of armoured car

t1487. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the initiative of Defence Research and Development Organisation (D.R.D.O.) its, DMSRDE laboratory has succeeded in manufacturing a car which remains completely unaffected from terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost likely to be incurred on the manufacturing of the said car; and

(d) by when the large scale production of the said car is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) DMSRDE Kanpur, a laboratory of DRDO, has not developed such a car. However, DMSRDE has developed a bullet proof glass laminate for fitment on ambassador car.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Armymen in Pakistani jails

1488. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of Indian Army's Commissioned and Noncommissioned officers and soldiers currently in Pakistani jails;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.